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**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/050,484

Examiner

John Ruggles

Applicant(s)

RANGARAJAN ET AL.

Art Unit

1756

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the 31 October 2003 amendment.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-19 and 25-35.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

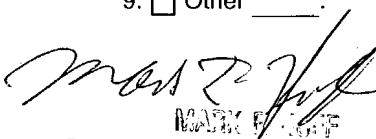

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |


  
 MARK R. RUGGLES  
 SUPERVISOR  
 JOHN RUGGLES  
 Examiner  
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### **DETAILED ACTION**

Applicants have now affirmed the previous election of Group II, claims 9-19 and have further cancelled the previously withdrawn non-elected claims 1-8 and 20-24. Claims 9, 11, 15, and 17 are currently amended and new claims 25-35 have been added. Therefore, only claims 9-19 and 25-35 are still pending for consideration.

#### ***Specification***

The previous exemplified objections to the specification have been overcome by the amendments filed on 31 October 2003. Accordingly, these previous objections are now withdrawn. The previously outstanding minor grammatical corrections still needed in the specification have been made by examiner amendment as noted below.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The previous rejection of claims 11 and 17 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 has also been overcome by amendments to these claims. Accordingly, this rejection is also now withdrawn.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The previous rejections of claims 9-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the previously cited references have been overcome by the amendments filed on 31 October 2003. Accordingly, these rejections are now withdrawn.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The specification of this application has been amended as follows: (1) at line 3 on page 4, "present invention" has been changed to --the present invention--; (2) at line 7 on page 8, "to photodegradable" has been changed to --to form photodegradable--; (3) at line 3, "organometallic compound" has been changed to --an organometallic compound-- and at line 27, "metal complex" has been changed to --metal complexes--, both on page 9; (4) at lines 1-2 on page 10, "chromic" has been changed to --a chromic-- in both instances and "cobaltic" has been changed to --a cobaltic--; (5) at line 5 on page 11, "Nitrides surfaces" has been corrected to read --Nitride surfaces--; (6) at lines 17-19 on page 19, "conditions processing environment" has been changed to --conditions in the processing environment-- and "mass flow sensor" has been corrected to --a mass flow sensor--; and (7) at line 18 on page 20, "read only memory" and "random access memory" have been changed to --a read only memory-- and --a random access memory--, respectively.

Only minor grammatical changes have been made in the specification by the examiner as noted above in order to expedite prosecution for allowance of this application.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Claims 9-19 and 25-35 are now allowed.

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The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: independent claims 9 and 15 have now been amended and new independent claims 25 and 31 have now been added to include additional limitations requiring that the light degradable surface coupling agent (1) loses its adhesion properties upon exposure to light (claims 9, 15, 25, and 31) and (2) has a polar surface and a non-polar surface (claims 25 and 31). These additional limitations are considered to be patentable over the prior art of record in this case. While it is known to include a light degradable linking or coupling agent between a semiconductor substrate and an overlying resist, the cited prior art does not specifically teach that the coupling agent must lose its adhesion during a single step exposure to light of the overlying resist nor that the light degradable coupling agent has both polar and non-polar surfaces.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments accompanying the amendment filed 31 October 2003 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The previous exemplified objections to the specification and the previous rejections of claims 9-19 have been overcome by the amendments filed. Accordingly, these previous exemplified objections and these previous rejections are now withdrawn. The previously outstanding minor grammatical corrections still needed in the

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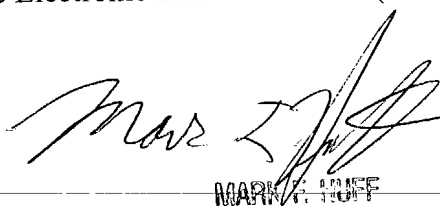
specification have been made by examiner amendment as noted above in order to expedite prosecution for allowance of this application.

### ***Conclusion***

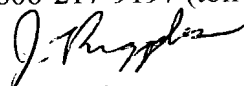
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Ruggles whose telephone number is 571-272-1390. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Huff can be reached on 571-272-1385. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**SUPERVISOR IN CHARGE EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOG. CENTER 1700**



John Ruggles  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1756